

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7443

BILL NUMBER: HB 1458

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 10, 2009

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Child in Need of Services.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Kersey

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: ☒ **GENERAL**
☒ **DEDICATED**
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill provides that a child is a child in need of services (CHINS) if a: (1) child's physical or mental health is harmed or at risk of being harmed by an act or omission of the child's parent, guardian, or custodian; or (2) child has an injury or abnormal physical or psychological development or is at risk of a life-threatening condition because the child's parent, guardian, or custodian gave the child a toxic or potentially toxic dose of a prescription or nonprescription drug.

Effective Date: July 1, 2009.

Explanation of State Expenditures: This bill can increase the number of children who are considered CHINS in the state. Any increase in the number of CHINS may also increase the number of Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) that are assigned to CHINS determination hearings. Increases in the number of CHINS will also increase the caseload of juvenile courts with a subsequent increase in the number of CHINS cases heard.

The Division of State Court Administration currently provides state matching funds to counties that have appropriate GAL/CASA services. If this bill increases the number of CHINS, state expenditures for the GAL/CASA program may increase as well, subject to appropriations. Actual increases in state expenditures will depend on any change in CHINS numbers in a county.

Background Information: DCS funds programming and services for CHINS. CHINS programming and services are ordered by a judge during the CHINS determination and is normally an agreed-on recommendation made by both DCS and the CASA representing the child. DCS reports that the total CHINS

cost in CY 2007 was approximately \$380 M.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues: The Division of State Court Administration currently provides state matching funds to counties that have appropriate GAL/CASA services. Funding is administered based on the number of CHINS in a county. If this bill changes the number of CHINS, local revenue for the GAL/CASA program may change as well. Actual changes in local revenue are indeterminable, but expected to be small.

State Agencies Affected: DCS, Division of State Court Administration, GAL/CASA Program.

Local Agencies Affected: County GAL/CASA programs, local courts.

Information Sources: Ann Houseworth, DCS.

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